

Appln. No.: 10/500,393
Amendment Dated: April 13, 2006
Reply to Office Action of: January 13, 2006

MAT-8559US

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 5. This sheet replaces the original sheets.

Attachment

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Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1, 7-12 and 14 have been amended. No new material is introduced herein. Claims 1-14 are pending.

Figure 5 has been amended to clarify the elements of the ladder type filter and piezoelectric vibrators. No new material is introduced herein. Support for the amendment is found, for example, page 9, lines 1-19.

The specification has been amended to clarify the element numbers corresponding to ladder type filter and piezoelectric vibrator shown in Figure 5. No new material is introduced herein.

Claims 1, 3, 9 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Suzuki (JP 62-81807). It is respectfully submitted, however, that these claims are now patentable over the cited art for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1, as amended, includes features neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited art, namely:

... a ratio of a sum of a thickness of the first dielectric film and the second dielectric film to the thickness of the piezoelectric plate is provided in a range such that an electro-mechanical coupling factor is substantially constant ...

Although not identical to claim 1, amended claims 9 and 14 include similar recitations. These features are disclosed, for example, page 5, line 8 - page 6, line 27 and Figure 2.

Suzuki discloses a piezoelectric thin film resonator, in Figures 2(a)-2(e), having an upper electrode 8 and lower electrode 6. A first dielectric 5 is formed on lower electrode 6 and a second dielectric film 9 is formed on upper electrode 8 (Abstract). Suzuki does not disclose or suggest Applicant's claimed features of "a ratio of a sum of a thickness of the first dielectric film and the second dielectric film to the thickness of the piezoelectric plate is provided in a range such that an electrode-mechanical coupling factor is substantially constant." (emphasis added). These features are neither disclosed nor suggested by Suzuki. Thus, Suzuki does not include all of the features of claim 1. Accordingly, allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claim 3 includes all of the features of claim 1 from which it depends. Accordingly, claim 3 is also patentable over the cited art.

Claims 9 and 14, although not identical to claim 1, include features similar to claim 1. Accordingly, allowance of claims 9 and 14 are respectfully requested for at least the same reasons as for claim 1.

Claims 2, 4-8 and 10-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibata et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,556,103). Although paragraph 3 of the Office Action includes claims 2, 4-8 and 10-13 as being unpatentable over Shibata et al., Applicants believe that these claims are rejected as being unpatentable over Suzuki in view of Shibata et al. because the rejection of these claims is discussed with respect to Suzuki and Shibata et al. Accordingly, Applicants have addressed the rejection with respect to Suzuki in view of Shibata et al. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 2, 4-8 and 10-13 be clarified.

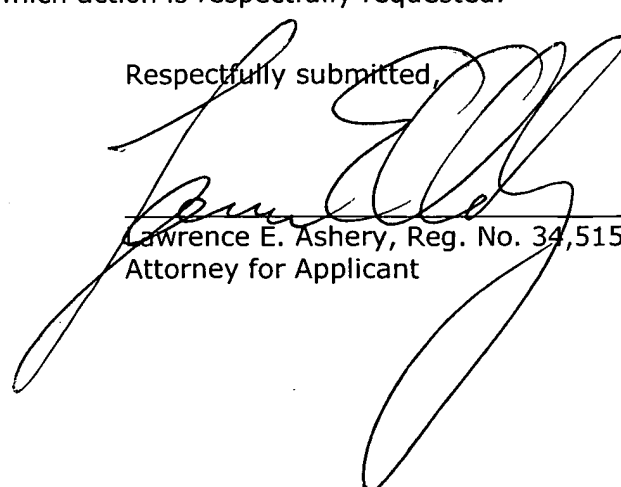
Claims 2 and 4-8 include all of the features of claim 1 from which they depend. Claims 10-13 include all of the features of claim 9 from which they depend. Shibata et al. do not make up for the features that are lacking in Suzuki. Accordingly, claims 2, 4-8 and 10-13 are also patentable over the cited art.

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In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

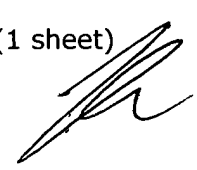
Respectfully submitted,


Lawrence E. Ashery, Reg. No. 34,515
Attorney for Applicant

LEA/ds

Attachments: Figure 5 (1 sheet)

Dated: April 13, 2006



P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700

The Director is hereby authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. **18-0350** for any additional fees, or any underpayment or credit for overpayment in connection herewith.

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April 13, 2006

Deborah Spratt



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